SFG 2023 | LEVEL 1 | Test #31 – Solutions | ForumIAS

Q.1) With reference to the guilds (Shreni) of ancient India that played a very important role in the country's economy, which of the following statements is/are correct?
1. Every guild was registered with the central authority of the State and the king was the chief administrative authority on them.
2. The wages, rules of work, standards and prices were fixed by the guild.
3. The guild had judicial powers over its own members.
Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 3 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) c
Exp) Option c is the correct answer.
Statement 1 is *incorrect*. Guilds were not under the control of the State and the king was not the chief administrative authority on them. They framed their own rules of membership and professional code of conduct, which even kings were supposed to accept and respect.
Statement 2 is correct. The wages, rules of work, standards and prices were fixed by the guild itself.
Statement 3 is correct. Guilds could try their members for offence in accordance with their own customs and usages, which came to acquire almost the status of law. A guild member had to abide by both guild and state laws. Guilds had their own laws, based on customs and usage, regarding organization, and had considerable power over guild members.
Source) UPSC Prelims 2012

Q.2) With reference to Gupta administration, consider the following statements:
1. The political authority was highly concentrated in the hands of the king.
2. The district administration was under the charge of 'Rajukas',
3. Traders have to pay a commercial tax called 'Sulka' to trade in the Gupta Kingdom.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2 and 3 only
c) 3 only
d) 1 and 3 only

Ans) c
Exp) Option c is the correct answer.
The administrative system during the Gupta dynasty was found more or less similar to that of the Mauryan Empire. The dynasty gave more importance to administrative decentralization and helped the rulers to systematically control their territories.

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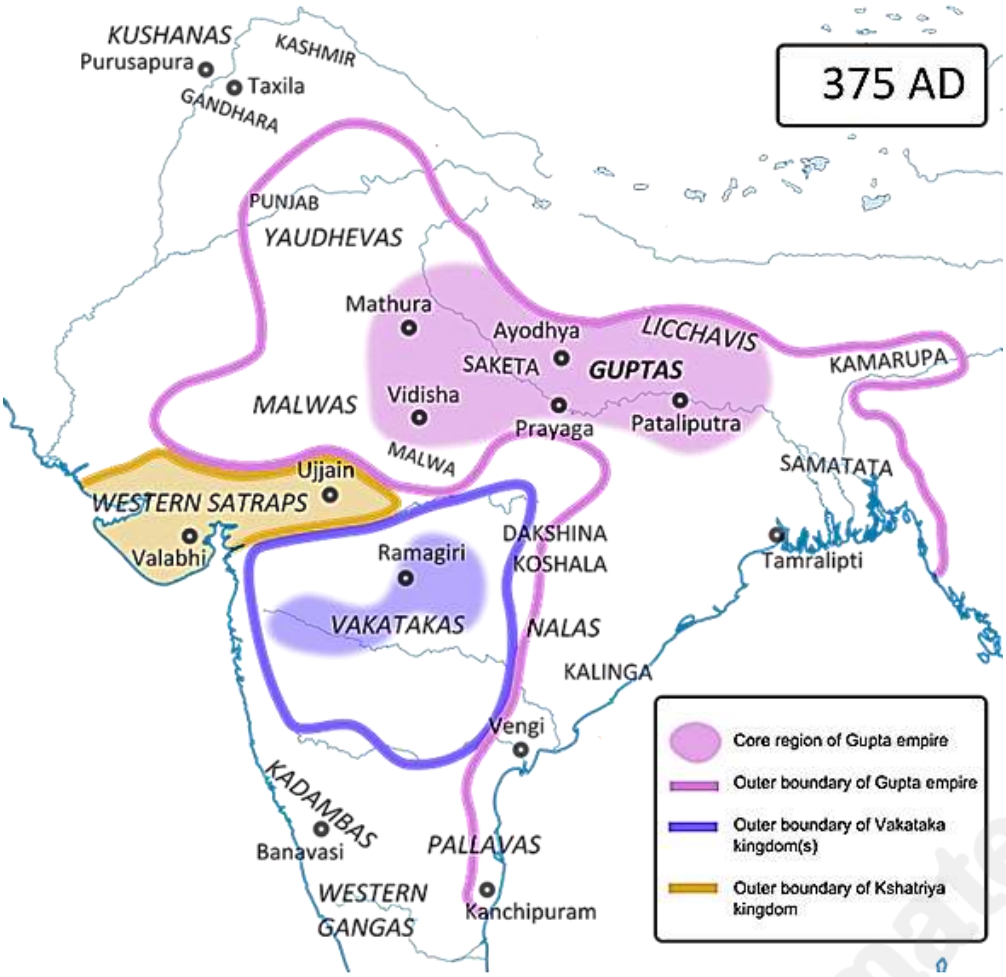

Statement 1 is incorrect. The **Gupta administration was decentralized in nature** and contained many feudatories like local kings and smaller chiefs, who ruled over large parts of their empire. These lesser rulers adorned their names with titles like raja and maharaja.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The **Mauryan** district administration was in the charge of **'Rajukas',** whose position and functions are similar to today's district collectors. He was assisted by 'Yuktas' or subordinate officials. Whereas the **Gupta Empire was divided into divisions called 'Bhukti' and each Bhukti was placed under the administrative charge of an 'Uparika.' The Bhuktis were divided into districts or Vishayas and each Vishaya was under a Vishayapati.**

Statement 3 is correct. The Gupta kings levied a certain **commercial tax** called **Sulka.** The organization of traders had to pay this tax, the non-payment of which resulted in cancellation of the right to trade and a fine amounting to eight times of the original Sulka.

Source: https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/20161/1/Unit-3es3.pdf
https://www.worldhistory.org/image/10134/extent-of-the-gupta-empire-375-ce/ (FOR MAP)
https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/70371/1/Unit-1.pdf
https://ddceutkal.ac.in/Syllabus/MA_history/paper-11-N.pdf

Q.3) With reference to the Indo-Greek rule in India, consider the following statements:
1. The Indo-Greeks coins used bilingual inscriptions.
2. They introduced Hellenistic art features that gave rise to Gandhara school of art.
3. The Indo-Greeks introduced the use of caps, helmets, and boots for the first time in India.

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Which of the above statements are correct?
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2 only
c) 1 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) a
Exp) Option a is the correct answer.
After the death of Alexander in 323 BCE, many Greeks came to settle on the north-western borders of India with Bactria (presently in the northern part of Afghanistan, the area lying to the south of the Oxus River and to the north-west of the Hindu Kush mountains).
Statement 1 is correct. The Indo-Greek coins circulated both to the north and south of Hindukush region with several unique features. One of the major features of Indo Greek coins was the **use of bilingual inscription on their coins.** The Indo-Greek Coins has bilingual inscriptions in **Greek and Kharoshthi** with the royal portraits on the o**bverse and images of Greek deities** such as Zeus, Apollo, and Athena) on the reverse along with the name and title of the king. They may **also include Indian religious symbols** on one side of the coins.
Statement 2 is correct. The Indo-Greeks introduced new features of **Hellenistic art** which gave rise to **Gandhara school of art** in the north-west frontier of India. It was not purely Greek, but rather it was the outcome of the intermingling and influence of both Indian and central Asian contacts. Example of such art is the **Besnagar Pillar inscription of Heliodorus.**
Statement 3 is incorrect. The **Shaka's and Kushana's** who were well known for their **military knowledge and equipment,** introduced the **use of caps, helmets and boots to the warrior classes in India.** They also introduced the use of turbans, tunics, trousers, long heavy coats and long boots for all other sections of society also.
Source: https://diplomatist.com/2022/11/03/ancient-india-and-ancient-greece-an-exploration-of-the-historical-connections/
Ancient and Medieval India by Poonam Dalal Dahiya (ch-Political and cultural development)

Q.4) Which of the following scholars were patronized by the Kushana ruler Kanishka?
1. Vasumitra
2. Bhavabhuti
3. Asvaghosha
4. Nagarjuna
5. Gunadhya
Select the correct answer using the code given below.
a) 1, 2, 3 and 5 only
b) 1, 3 and 4 only
c) 2 and 4 only
d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Ans) b
Exp) Option b is the correct answer.
Kanishka was the most important ruler of the Kushana dynasty. He patronized **Buddhism** and is known for propagating the **Mahayana form of Buddhism** especially in China.

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Option 1, 3 and 4 are correct. Kanishka Patronized Buddhist scholars like **Vasumitra** (wrote Mahavibhasa)**, Asvaghosha** (wrote hagiographic Buddhacharita)**, Agesilaus** (Greek engineer), **Charaka** (known as father of Ayurveda (wrote Charaksamhita and Sasruta), **Mathara** (minister) **and Nagarjuna.**
Option 2 and 5 are incorrect. Bhavabhuti was patronized by **Yasovarman of Kannauj** and **Gunadhya** was patronized by **Satvahana king Hala.**
Source: Ancient and medieval India by Poonam Dalal (ch-7 POLITICAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS DURING c. 200 BCE–300 CE)
McGraw Hill publication General studies by Rakesh Diwedi-2nd edition(pg-1.31)

Q.5) With reference to 'Standing Deposit Facility', consider the following statements:
1. It is a facility of Reserve Bank of India for absorbing excess liquidity from the banking sector.
2. It does not have any mandatory requirement of providing collateral for deposition of funds.
3. The eligible participants can place deposits with the Reserve Bank of India only for a minimum period of one year.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) 1 only
b) 1 and 2 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 1 and 3 only

Ans) b
Exp) Option b is the correct answer.
The Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) is a **monetary policy tool** used by central banks to manage short-term interest rates and liquidity in the banking system. It **allows commercial banks to deposit their excess funds with the central bank**. Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) was introduced in 2018 by Reserve Bank of India by amending Section 17 of the RBI Act.
Statement 1 is correct: Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) is an **additional tool for absorbing liquidity without any collateral.** By removing the binding collateral constraint on the RBI, the SDF strengthens the operating framework of monetary policy. The SDF was **suggested in 2014** by a committee headed by Urjit Patel.
Statement 2 is correct: SDF becomes an additional tool for absorbing liquidity **without any collateral.** Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) allows banks to park their excess funds without taking any collateral from the central bank. By removing the binding collateral constraint on the RBI, the SDF strengthens the operating framework of monetary policy. The SDF is also a financial stability tool in addition to its role in liquidity management.
Statement 3 is incorrect: Eligible participants can place **deposits with the RBI on an overnight basis at the fixed rate.** However, the RBI retains the flexibility to absorb liquidity for longer tenors under the SDF with appropriate pricing, as and when the need arises.
Source: https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/everyday-explainers/what-is-standing-deposit-facility-7859803/
https://blog.forumias.com/explained-what-is-sdf-the-rbis-new-tool-to-absorb-excess-liquidity-to-control-inflation/

Q.6) Which of the following is the correct description of the terms 'Kshaharatas' and 'Kardamakas'?
a) Coins of Satavahana rulers
b) Dynasties of Saka-Kshatrapa rulers
c) Taxes levied by Gupta Rulers
d) Titles of Mayuran Rulers

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Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The Kshaharatas and Kardamakas are **two important dynasties/lines of Kshatrapa rulers** who were Indo-Scythian (Saka) rulers of the western and central part of India.

Kshaharatas dynasty- The prominent rulers of this dynasty are-**Bhumaka and Nahapana**. Another name, **Aghudaka or Abhedaka** is also known from coins, who also bears the family name Kshaharata on his coins. Bhumaka seems to have originally owed **allegiance to Kanishka**. His coins with legends in **Brahmi and Kharosth**i have been found in coastal Gujarat; some also could be traced in Malwa and Ajmer area. Bhumaka was immediately succeeded by Nahapana as his copper coins were of the same type as issued by Bhumaka.

Kardamaka dynasty- The Kardamakas dynasty rulers are another line of the **Shaka kshatrapas** who ruled western India after the Kshaharatas dynasty came to an end. The prominent rulers of this dynasty are-**Chashtana, Founder of the Kardamaka dynasty** and **Rudradaman I,** the most important ruler of the Kardamaka family. During his reign the Saka power experienced a major expansion.

Source: https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/67706/1/Unit-2.pdf

Ancient and medieval india by Poonam Dalal(ch-7 POLITICAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS DURING c. 200 BCE–300 CE)

Q.7) With reference to social structure during the rule of Satavahana Dynasty, consider the following statements:

1. Satavahana rulers were the supporters of four-fold varna division of society.
2. Only the kings, and not the Queens were allowed to perform the Vedic sacrifices.
3. Satavahana rulers gave tax free land grants only to brahmanas, and not to Buddhist monks.

Which of the statements given above are **incorrect**?

a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2 and 3 only
c) 1 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Early Satavahanas were identified with Andhras, they were probably a local Deccan tribe who were gradually Brahamnised.

Statement 1 is correct: The Satavahana kings (such as Gautamiputra Satkarni) claimed to be Brahmans. **They considered it their primary duty to uphold the varna system, that is, the four-fold division of social structure determined by varnas.**

Statement 2 is incorrect: Kings and queens both performed the Vedic sacrifices. Nanaghat inscription of Queen Nayanika, the widowed queen of Satakarni, mentions that queen performed Vedic sacrifices. They worshipped Vaishnava gods such as Krishna and Vasudeva.

Statement 3 is incorrect: They made liberal sacrificial fees to the Brahmanas**, they also promoted Buddhism by granting land to Buddhist monks, especially to Mahayana Buddhists.**

Source: Poonam Dalal Dahiya, chapter 7

Q.8) With reference to the impact of contacts between Central Asia and India on religion, art & Architecture during 200 BC to 300 CE, consider the following statements:

1. It led to the introduction of canal irrigation in India.
2. The use of burnt bricks for flooring and roofing was introduced in India.
3. It led to the introduction of use of the curtains in the Indian theatre.

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Which of the statements given above are correct?
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2 and 3 only
c) 1 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The rulers coming from outside including the central Asian countries between 200 BC to 300 CE known as Shaka-Kushana phase introduced various new elements to trade and agriculture, to administrative organization, to art and literature, sculpture and pottery, science and technology, and to Indian society.

Statement 1 is incorrect. Tughlags were **first to introduce canal irrigation in India.** Barani in **tarikh-i-Firozshahi** tells us that Ghiasuddin Tughlaq was the first ruler to undertake construction of canals.

Statement 2 is correct. The rulers of central Asia introduced several material elements in the already existing techniques of Indian architecture. The Saka-Kushana phase is demonstrative of an advance in building activities. They introduced th**e use of burnt bricks and tiles for both flooring and roofing.** The period is also marked by the construction of brick walls. Brick wells may also have been introduced during this period.

Statement 3 is correct. The foreign rulers were patrons of Indian art and drama. The Greeks contributed to the development of the Indian theatre by **introducing the use of the curtain,** which was called **yavanika** as an imperative element of theatre that plays an important role in the scenic representation of theatre. The word javanika or yavanika for curtain even finds place in the Natyashastra by Bharata.

Source: https://www.egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/20153/1/Unit-23.pdf
POONAM DALAL (CH-7 POLITICAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS DURING c. 200 BCE–300 CE)
https://www.egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/76816/1/Unit-4.pdf

Q.9) With reference to the post-Mauryan art and culture, consider the following statements:
1. The Shunga rulers introduced the idea of decorated gateways in Buddhist stupas.
2. During this period, the prayer halls or Chaityas were developed in rock caves.
3. The Lomas Rishi cave is an example of man-made cave built during the post-Mauryan period.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2 only
c) 1 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The collapse of the Mauryan rule in 187 BCE paved the way for the emergence of several powers in the Indian subcontinent. The period from the decline of the Mauryas to the rise of the Guptas (2nd century BCE to 3rd century CE) is known in Indian history as the post- Mauryan period.

Statement 1 is correct. Stupas were the burial mounds where the ashes of the dead were kept. In Post-Mauryan period, the size of stupas became larger and more decorative with the use of Stone in place of wood and brick as used during the Mauryan and Vedic period. The **Shunga dynasty** introduced the idea of '**torans' i.e., a beautifully decorated gateways to the stupas** that were intricately carved with figures and patterns and were evidence of Hellenistic influence. **Examples: Bharhut stupa in Madhya Pradesh.**

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Statement 2 is correct. The rock-cut cave architecture emerged during Mauryan Period where it was used as viharas (living quarters) only. In Post-Mauryan period, the rock-cut caves **developed Chaityas or the prayer halls along with the viharas.**
Statement 3 is incorrect. The **Lomas Rishi Cave** is a man-made cave in Bihar built during **Ashoka Period** as a part of sacred architecture of Aajivika Sect. The **Udayagiri and Khandagiri caves of Orissa** is an example of post-Mauryan caves that are both natural and man-made built by **kharavela rulers.**
Source: NITIN SINGHANIA (CH-INDIAN ARCHITECTURE, SCULPTURE AND POTTERY)

Q.10) Which of the following risks/ concerns are likely associated with the privatization of public sector banks (PSBs) in India?
1. Risk of formation of monopolies
2. Reduction in inclusivity of banking services
3. Short-term focus on maximizing profit
4. Lack of transparency and accountability
5. Loss of Employment
Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
a) 1, 2 and 3 only
b) 1, 3, 4 and 5 only
c) 3 and 4 only
d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Ans) d
Exp) Option d is the correct answer.
The Government has fast-paced the privatization of PSBs (Public Sector Banks). Recently NITI Aayog released its last round of consolidation plans. In that, the NITI Aayog listed 6 banks for the privatization plan. The privatization of public sector banks (PSBs) refers to the process of selling government-owned shares in these banks to private investors. This process is often controversial and is associated with a number of concerns, including:
1) Risk of Monopolies: One of the concerns associated with the privatization of public sector banks is that it may lead to the formation of monopolies or oligopolies. This is because private banks, particularly large ones, have more resources and financial capabilities than smaller banks, which can lead to the consolidation of the banking sector. This can result in reduced competition, leading to higher prices and fewer choices for consumers, and also the possibility of decreased innovation and service quality. **Hence, Option 1 is correct.**
2) Reduced access to banking services: Another concern is that privatization could lead to reduced access to banking services for certain groups, such as low-income households and rural communities. The Private Sector focused on profit motive might restrict the credit to rural, agricultural, women, poor sections of society, etc. Thus, after Privatized PSBs the remaining PSBs have to take care of all of such credits. This might stress the remaining PSBs also. **Hence, Option 2 is correct.**
3) Short term focus: Private investors may have a short-term focus on maximizing profits and returns which may not align with long-term development goals of the country. **Hence, Option 3 is correct.**
4) Lack of transparency and accountability: Private banks are not subject to the same level of transparency and accountability as public banks, which could lead to a lack of oversight and a greater risk of fraud and financial mismanagement. **Hence, Option 4 is correct.**
5) Job losses: Privatization of PSBs could also lead to job losses, as private investors may seek to reduce costs by cutting staff. This could have a negative impact on local economies and on the livelihoods of those who lose their jobs. **Hence, Option 5 is correct.**
Source: https://blog.forumias.com/privatization-of-psbspublic-sector-banks-explained-pointwise/

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Q.11) With reference to forced labour (Vishti) in India during the Gupta period, which one of the following statements is correct?
a) It was considered a source of income for the State, a sort of tax paid by the people.
b) It was totally absent in the Madhya Pradesh and Kathiawar regions of the Gupta Empire.
c) The forced labourer was entitled to weekly wages.
d) The eldest son of the labourer was sent as the forced labourer.

Ans) a
Exp) Option a is the correct answer.
In the Gupta period Vishti or forced labour became a source of state income and was looked upon as a sort of taxation paid by the people. So, it finds frequent mention along with other taxes in the Gupta inscriptions. The donees were not only provided with land and villages along with right to various taxes, they were also given the right to forced labour. This shows that forced labour was probably more common than in the earlier period.
Most of the inscriptions referring to Vishti come from Madhya Pradesh and Kathiawar regions may suggest this practice was more prevalent in these areas.
Source) UPSC Prelims 2019

Q.12) With reference to Sunga Dynasty, consider the following statements:
1. Sungas followed Brahmanism and performed Ashvamedha yajna.
2. Sungas encouraged the growth of Sanskrit language.
3. Buddhist art received patronage from Sunga rulers.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2 only
c) 1 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) d
Exp) Option d is the correct answer.
The founder of the Sunga dynasty was Pushyamitra Sunga, who was the commander-in-chief under the Mauryas. He assassinated the last Mauryan ruler and usurped the throne in 180 BCE. This is corroborated by Bana, the court poet of Harshavardhana of Kannauj. Sunga rule in India according to the Puranas lasted for 112 years. Magadha was the nucleus of the kingdom.
Statement 1 is correct: In the cultural sphere, the Sungas revived and followed Brahmanism and horse sacrifice. After Ashoka's Dhamma and Buddhism, the Sungas are known for having reverted to Brahmanical orthodoxy. Pushyamitra was a staunch follower of Brahmanism. In the Ayodhya inscription of Dhanadeva, Pushyamitra Sunga is credited with the performance of two Asvamedha sacrifices. Buddhist sources claim that he persecuted the Buddhists.
Statement 2 is correct: Sungas promoted the growth of Vaishnavism and the Sanskrit language.
Statement 3 is correct: Sunga rulers patronised buddhist art. Buddhist sources although refer Pushyamitra sunga as a persecutor of Buddhism, but there is enough evidence to show that he patronised Buddhist art. During his reign the Buddhist monuments at Bharhut and Sanchi were renovated and further improved.
Knowledge Base:

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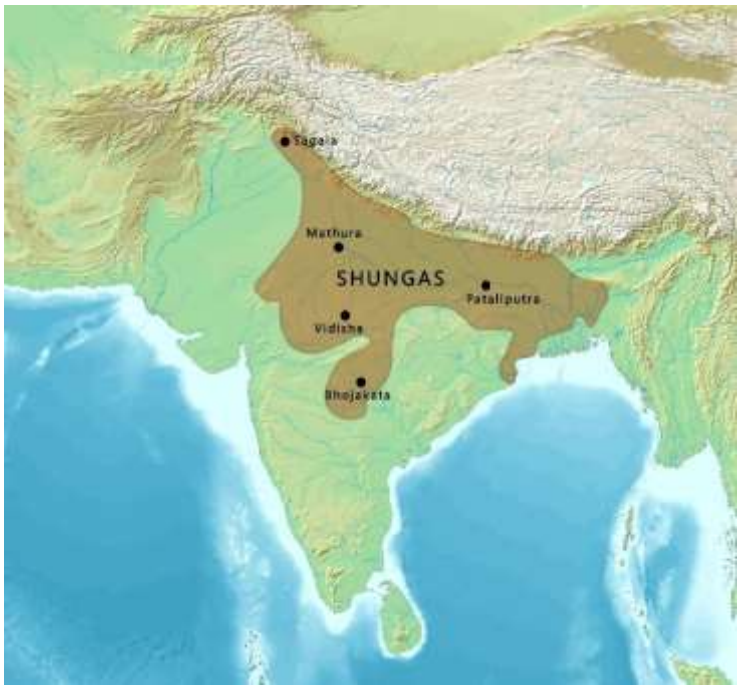

Source: Tamil nadu board, LESSON 7: POST-MAURYAN INDIA
https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/67705/1/Unit-1.pdf

Q.13) With reference to Satavahanas, consider the following statements:
1. Large amount of gold coins were issued during Satavahana period.
2. During Satavahanas period, Guilds also functioned as banks.
3. State imposed great degree of control on crafts and industry.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2 only
c) 1 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) b
Exp) Option b is the correct answer.
Satavahanas were the native successor of Mauryas in Deccan and in central India. In puranas they were also identified as Andhras. According to the scholars, they ruled from late 2nd century BCE till early 3rd century BCE. From epigraphic evidence, it was found that the most remarkable feature of economic life was, however, proliferation of crafts and
expanding trade.
Statement 1 is incorrect: Satavahanas did not issue large quantity of gold coins. They issued mostly coins of lead which is found in the deccan region. They also issue potin, copper and bronze money.
Statement 2 is correct: During this period guilds(srenis) began to function as banks and also helped in public welfare activities. Guilds were a special feature of trade and industry in the Satavahana period. The srenis fixed rules of work, as well as the quality of the finished product and its price. It was done in order to safeguard both the artisan and the customer. Almost every industrial activity and major profession were organized under their respective guilds.
Statement 3 is incorrect: Under Satavahanas period there was less state control on craft and industry except viewing them as major revenue earners. This becomes evident from the imposition of levies on

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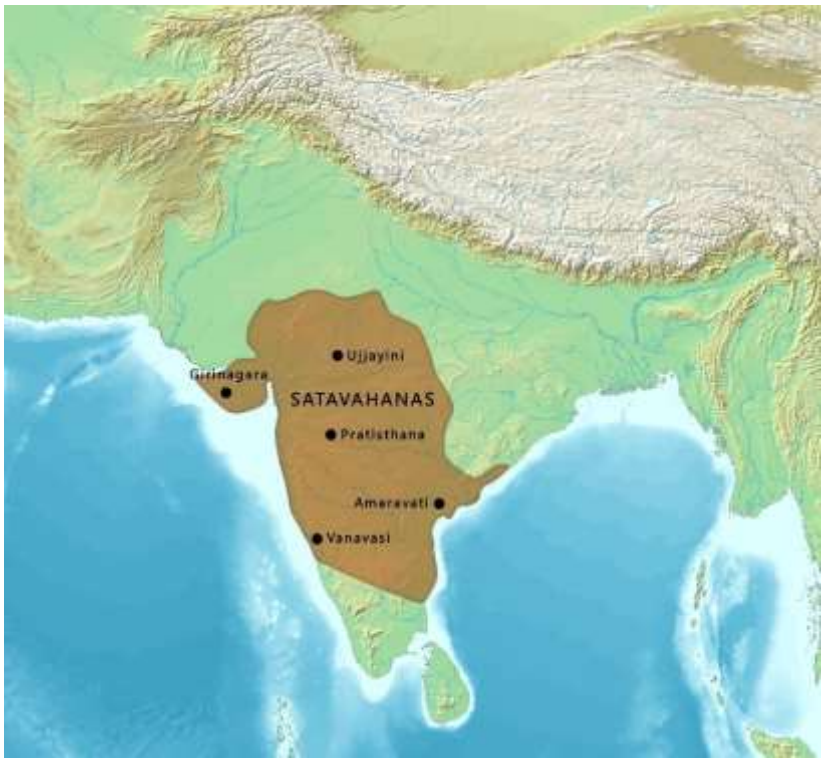
craftsmen (karukara) in an inscription from Karle. As there were tremendous growth of crafts and industries in this period, so naturally a tax on the craftsmen earned huge revenue for the royal treasury.
Knowledge Base:



Source: ancient history by RS Sharma
https://www.egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/44505/1/Unit-7.pdf

Q.14) With reference to Sakas, consider the following statements:
1. They ruled over a large region extending from Afghanistan to Kalinga region of India.
2. They introduced Satrap system of government in India.
3. The first ever lengthy inscription in chaste Sanskrit was issued under a Saka ruler.
Which of the statements given above are correct?
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2 and 3 only
c) 1 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) b
Exp) Option b is the correct answer.
Indo-Scythians also called Sakas were a group of nomadic Iranian peoples of Scythian origin. They migrated from Central Asia southward into modern day Pakistan and Northwestern India from the middle of the 2nd century BCE to the 4th century CE. The first Saka King in India was Maues or Moga, who established Saka power in Gandhara.
Statement 1 is incorrect: Sakas ruled over the region of northern, western and north- western region.
One branch is believed to have settled in Afghanistan. Another line of the Sakas settled in Punjab with Taxila as the capital. There was another that ruled from Mathura. A fourth branch was that which established itself in Western and Central India from where they continued their rule till about the fourth century A.D.

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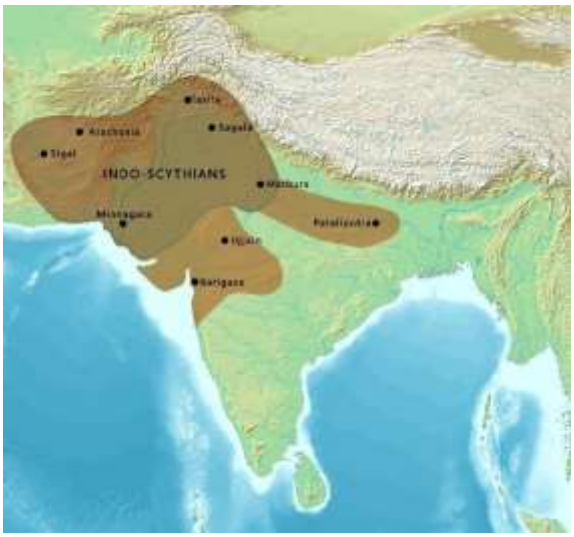

Statement 2 is correct: The Sakas along with the Parthians introduced the Satrap system of government. Under this system the kingdom was divided into provinces each under a military governor called Mahakshatrapa or great Satrap. Governors with lower status were called Kshatrapas or Satraps. These governors issued their own inscriptions and minted their own coins. This is indicative of a more independent status than was otherwise normal in an administrative set-up.

Statement 3 is correct: Rudradaman of Saka dynasty issued first ever lengthy inscription to be written in Sanskrit. All other inscriptions in this country were issued in Prakrit. It is evident that Rudradaman patronized Sanskrit.

Source: Ancient india by RS Sharma, central Asian contacts and their results
https://www.egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/20153/1/Unit-23.pdf

Q.15) With reference to the recently introduced Scale Based Regulation for Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) by the Reserve Bank of India, consider the following statements:
1. It classified the NBFC into four layers based on their size, activity and risk.
2. The NBFCs classified under the higher layer will have lesser regulation compliance in comparison to NBFCs in lower layers.
3. Its scope extends to cover both deposit taking and non-deposit taking NBFCs.
4. Currently, the government owned NBFCs cannot be placed in the highest layer.
Which of statements given above is/are correct?
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 1 and 4 only
c) 3 only
d) 1, 3 and 4 only

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Over the years, the NBFC sector has grown in terms of size, complexity, and interconnectedness within the financial sector. Hence there is a **need to align the regulatory framework for NBFCs keeping in view their changing risk profile.**

Statement 1 is correct: Scale Based Regulation for Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) shall comprise **four layers based on their size, activity, and perceived riskiness**. NBFCs in the lowest layer shall be known as **NBFC - Base Layer (NBFC-BL)**. NBFCs in the middle layer and upper layer shall be known as

NBFC - **Middle Layer (NBFC-ML) and NBFC - Upper Layer (NBFC-UL)** respectively. The Top Layer is ideally expected to be empty and will be known as **NBFC - Top Layer (NBFC-TL).**

Statement 2 is incorrect: Higher the layer, higher the regulation. RBI stated that the **Upper Layer shall comprise of those NBFCs** which are specifically identified by RBI as **warranting enhanced regulatory requirement based on a set of parameters.** Also, RBI can move the **NBFCs from Upper layer to Top layer** if it is of the view that particular **NBFCs may pose potential systemic risk.**

Statement 3 is correct: Scale Based Regulation for Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) **covers both deposit taking and non-deposit taking NBFCs.** It also covers the NBFCs undertaking following activities NBFCs undertaking the following activities (i) Standalone Primary Dealers (SPDs), (ii) Infrastructure Debt Fund - Non-Banking Financial Companies (IDF-NBFCs), (iii) Core Investment Companies (CICs), (iv) Housing Finance Companies (HFCs) and (v) Infrastructure Finance Companies (NBFC-IFCs).

Statement 4 is correct: Government owned NBFCs shall be placed in the Base Layer or Middle Layer as the case may be. Currently they will **not be placed in the Upper Layer.**

Source: https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12179&Mode=0

Q.16) Which of the following is the correct description of 'Hora Shastra'?

a) It is a major ancient Indian text concerning code of conduct for men and women in society.
b) It is a book containing rules regarding performance, acting, gesture and stage direction.
c) It deals with the study of Vedic astrology.
d) It is one of the oldest grammar rule books for Sanskrit language.

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Option a is incorrect: Manusmriti or laws of manu is a rule book containing role of men and women in society and their interaction in social plane.

Option b is incorrect: Natyasastra by Bharata contains the rules regarding performance, acting, gesture and stage direction.

Option c is correct: Horashastra deals with the study of Vedic astrology. Post-Mauryan Indian astronomy and astrology has a huge Greek influence. The term 'Hora Shastra' used for astrology in Sanskrit was derived from the Greek term 'horoscope'.

Option d is incorrect: Panini's Ashtadhyayi contains the rules of grammar for Sanskrit language. It dated around 500 BCE.

Source: Poonam dalal Dahiya chapter 7
Indian art and culture by Nitin Singhania, chapter on Indian Literature.

Q.17) "He was an Indo-Greek ruler. He administered a large territory in the North-western regions of the Indian Subcontinent with his capital at Sagala. He was a patron of the Buddhist religion and was converted to Buddhism by Nagasena."

Which of the following rulers is mentioned in the above paragraph?

a) Menander
b) Demetrius
c) Hermaius
d) Apollodotus

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

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Menander was the Indo-Greek king who was patron of the Buddhist religion. He wrote one of the most important Buddhist works called **the Milinda-panha ("The Questions of Milinda")** which was written in Pali. He was converted to **Buddhism by Nagasena,** who also was mentioned in his work. The kingdom of Menander in the Indian subcontinent extended from the Kabul River valley in the west to the Ravi River in the east and from the Swat River valley (in modern Pakistan) in the north to Arachosia (the Kandahar region) in Afghanistan in the south. He even made his attempts to capture Pataliputrabut was stopped by the army of Vasumitra (the grandson of Pushyamitra Sunga).

Source: https://www.britannica.com/biography/Menander-Indo-Greek-king
https://www.worldhistory.org/img/r/p/500x600/260.jpg.webp?v=1625706903 (FOR IMAGE)

Q.18) Which of the following is correct with respect to the Judicial administration during the Mauryan empire?
a) Capital punishments were totally absent during the Mauryan time.
b) The Dharmasthiya courts deals with criminal matters only.
c) The Kantakasodhana courts relied on spies for information about anti-social activities.
d) Ashoka tried to establish rule of law based on Varna system.

Ans) c
Exp) Option c is the correct answer.
Justice was administered through courts which were established in all the major towns. Two types of courts were prevalent during this time.
Option a is incorrect: During the Mauryan period, punishments for crimes were usually quite severe. Punishments for offences and crimes ranged from fines to **mutilation of limbs, or even capital punishment.**
Option b is incorrect: The **dharmasthiya courts** mostly dealt with **civil law** relating to marriage, inheritance and other aspects of civil life. The courts were presided over by three judges well-versed in sacred laws and three amatyas (secretaries).
Option c is correct: The main purpose of **kantakasodhana** courts was to clear the society of **anti-social elements and various types of crimes**, and it functioned more like the modern police, and relied on a **network of spies** for information about such anti-social activities.
Option d is incorrect: Pillar Edict IV contains Ashoka's claim that he had introduced **samata in judicial procedure.** According to some interpretations this meant that he had established a **uniform rule of law, abolishing varna distinctions in punishments.**
Source: https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/64794/1/Unit16.pdf
Class X!; TN SCERT - Pg no 57

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Q.19) With reference to Megasthenes account of the Mauryan empire, which of the following statements are correct?
1. Inter-caste marriages were common.
2. Bulk of the population was engaged in agriculture.
3. Indians used to borrow and lend money on interest.
4. There was no concept of slavery in India.
Select the correct answer using the code given below:
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2 and 4 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 1 and 4 only

Ans) b
Exp) Option b is the correct answer.
Megasthenes was a Seleukidian envoy who visited the Mauryan capital Pataliputra during the **reign of Chandragupta Maurya.** His account, **Indica**, presents the picture of India (especially northern India) under Chandragupta Maurya.
Statement 1 is incorrect: Megasthenes noted that the **occupations were hereditary in nature and intermarriage between groups was not allowed** – two features crucial to the functioning of the **caste system.**
Statement 2 is correct: Megasthenes noted that cultivators were the most numerous of all groups. Clearly, the **bulk of the population was engaged in agriculture**. He noted **s**oldiers as the second largest group in terms of numbers.
Statement 3 is incorrect: Megasthenes noted that Indians did not borrow or lend money on interest. However, many historians dispute this claim since money-lending was known and practiced from early times.
Statement 4 is correct: Megasthenes stated that there is **no concept of slavery in India**. However, evidence suggests that there are some situations that led to enslavement – **a person could be a slave either by birth, by voluntary selling themselves, by being captured in war, or as a result of judicial punishment.**
Source: https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/64794/1/Unit16.pdf

Q.20) In the context of Indian economy, consider the following statements with respect to the Digital Banking Units (DBUs):
1. It is a mobile unit of banks established to improve the outreach of banks.
2. It can be established by the payment banks.
3. It will facilitate the acceptance and disbursal of physical cash at their counters.
4. Both the physical security and cyber security of the DBUs should be ensured by banks owning DBUs.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 1 and 3 only
c) 2, 3 and 4 only
d) 4 only

Ans) d
Exp) Option d is the correct answer.
As part of the Union budget speech for 2022-23, the finance minister announced setting up the 75 DBUs in 75 districts to commemorate our country's 75 years of independence.

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Statement 1 is incorrect: Digital Banking Units (DBUs) is a **specialised fixed unit** housing **certain minimum digital infrastructure** for delivering **digital banking products and services as well as servicing existing financial products & services digitally** in both self-service and assisted mode.
Statement 2 is incorrect: RBI's guidelines state that **Scheduled Commercial Banks (other than Regional Rural Banks, Payment Banks and Local Area Banks)** with past digital banking experience are **permitted to open DBUs**, unless otherwise specifically restricted, without having the need to take permission from RBI in each case.
Statement 3 is incorrect: DBUs allow cash withdrawal/deposit only through ATM/Cash Deposit Machines respectively and **no physical cash acceptance/disbursal across counters.** Other services include opening of savings account, balance-check, print passbook, transfer of funds, loan applications, application for credit / debit cards, view statement of account, pay taxes, pay bills.
Statement 4 is correct: In addition to ensuring **physical security** of the infrastructure of the DBU, adequate safeguards for **cyber security** of the DBUs will have to be ensured by the banks.
Source: https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/what-are-digital-banking-units-122102000591_1.html#:~:text=According%20to%20the%20Reserve%20Bank,%2Dservice%20and%20assisted%20mode.%22
https://www.rbi.org.in/scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12285&Mode=0

Q.21) Which one of the following books of ancient India has the love story of the son of the founder of Sunga dynasty?
a) Swapnavasavadatta
b) Malavikagnimitra
c) Meghadoota
d) Ratnavali

Ans) b
Exp) Option b is the correct answer.
The Malavikagnimitra is a Sanskrit play by Kalidas. The play tells the love story of Agnimitra, the Shunga Emperor. He falls in love with the picture of an exiled servant girl named Malavika.
Source: UPSC 2016

Q.22) With reference to the Ashokan inscriptions, consider the following statements:
1. Minor Rock Edict I mentions that Ashoka was a devotee of Buddhism.
2. Ashokan inscriptions were devoid of Greek and Aramaic script.
3. The Ashokan inscription mentions the region of Kerala as Keralaputho.
4. Ashoka's edict mentioning the military conquest of Kalinga is the only recorded military expedition of the Mauryans.
Which of the statements given above are correct?
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 1, 3 and 4 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 1 and 4 only

Ans) b
Exp) Option b is the correct answer.
Statement 1 is correct: The Ashokan inscriptions can be divided into two categories. The smaller group of these inscriptions reveal that the **king was a follower of Buddhism and were addressed.**

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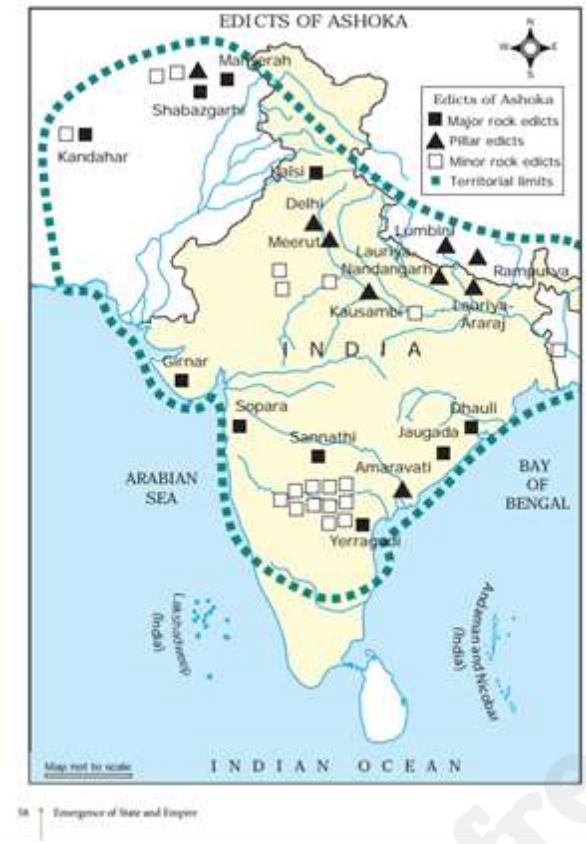
to the Buddhist Church or the Sangha. For instance, **Minor Rock Edict I mentions that he has been a lay devotee of Buddhism for two and a half years.**

Statement 2 is incorrect: The Ashokan edicts are written in the **Prakrit language and Brahmi script,** and occasionally in the **Kharosthi script** (in the north-western parts of the subcontinent) There are a few inscriptions in **Greek and Aramaic** as well. In fact, **a bilingual Greek-Aramaic inscription** was found at **Shar-i-Kuna near Kandahar** in south-east Afghanistan and another one in **Taxila.**

Statement 3 is correct: The second and thirteenth Ashokan stone inscription mentions **Kerala as Keralaputho (meaning KeralaPuthra).** The second inscription noted that hospitals for humans and animals were established in the **neighbouring regions ruled by the Cholas, Pandyas, Satyaputra, Keralaputra and the Thambapanni (Sri Lanka).**

Statement 4 is correct: Ashoka's Major Rock Edict 13 is the only recorded military expedition.
of the Mauryans. It mentions Ashoka's **military conquest of Kalinga** and the disastrous consequences of conquest of territory by war.



Source: https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/64795/1/Unit17.pdf
http://www.keralaculture.org/asoka-plates/311#:~:text=The%20earliest%20stone%20inscription%20with,Pandyas%22%20are%20named%20as%20such.
Class XI : TN SCERT Pg no 53,54

Q.23) With reference to the principles of Ashoka's Dhamma, consider the following statements:
1. It advocated for the abolition of the practise of slavery.
2. It promoted non-violence towards animals.
3. It asked people to show generosity towards both brahmanas and sramanas.
4. It encouraged welfare activities like digging of wells.

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Which of the statements given above are correct?
a) 1 and 3 only
b) 2 and 4 only
c) 3 and 4 only
d) 2, 3 and 4 only

Ans) d
Exp) Option d is the correct answer.
The principles of Dhamma were so formulated in a manner that is acceptable to people belonging to **different communities and followers of any religious sect.** Dhamma was not given any formal definition or structure.
Statement 1 is incorrect: Ashoka's Dhamma **did not advocate for the abolition of slavery.** His Dhamma asked people to show **consideration towards slaves and servants (**thus not condemning slavery). Thus, Ashoka's Dhamma in fact recognised the practise of slavery.
Statement 2 is correct: Dhamma stressed on **prohibition of animal sacrifices** and festive gatherings and avoiding expensive and meaningless ceremonies and rituals. It also p**romoted consideration and non-violence to animals** and courtesy to relations and liberality to Brahmins.
Statement 3 is correct: Ashoka's Dhamma stressed on tolerance of different religious sects in an attempt to create a sense of harmony. Hence it asked people to show **generosity towards brahmanas and sramanas.**
Statement 4 is correct: The policy of Dhamma also included certain **welfare measures like planting of trees, digging of wells**, etc.
Source: https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/64795/1/Unit17.pdf

Q.24) With reference to Polity and administration of Satavahanas, consider the following statements:
1. The office of provincial minister called Amatya was hereditary in nature.
2. None of the Feudatories of Satavahana rulers were given the right to issue coins.
3. Skandhvaras referred to the military camp during Satavahana rule.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2 and 3 only
c) 3 only
d) 1 and 3 only

Ans) c
Exp) Option c is the correct answer.
The Satavahanas were represented as the upholder of dharma. Most kings were represented as possessors of supernatural powers and of qualities, of mythical heroes such as Rama, Arjuna, Bhima, and so on. The Satavahanas retained some of the administrative units of Ashokan times.
Statement 1 is incorrect: The high-est official in a province was 'Amatya' or minister. His **office was not hereditary.** Men of proven ability were appointed to this office.
Statement 2 is incorrect: The Satavahana kingdom had three grades of feudatories:
1) Raja
2) Mahabhoja
3) Senapati
Only the feudatories of Raja catagory were given the right to strike/issue a coin.
Statement 3 is correct: Skandhvaras is a kind of military camp in Satavahana reign. Satavahanas maintained diversified and large armies. Their territorial expansion was based on their military might. Apart

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from infantry, the Satavahanas possessed cavalry, chariots and elephant forces. The army commander was styled Maha Senapati. The military character of the Satavahanas is evident with the use of terms like kataka and skandhavaras in their inscriptions, which denote military camps and settlements attached to a particular king and also served as administrative centres.

Knowledge Base: few features of satavahana kingdom:

• The kingdom was divided into subdivisions called aharas or rashtras, meaning districts.

• Officers called amatyas/mahamatras who were ministers or advisors of the king. But, unlike Mauryan times, certain military, and feudal traits are found in the administration of the Satavahanas.

• The lowest level of administration was a grama (village), which was under the charge of a gaulmika (village headman). He was also the head of a military regiment consisting of nine chariots, nine elephants, 25 horses and 45-foot soldiers.

Source: Poonam Dalal Dahiya, chapter 7

https://www.govtgirlsekbalpur.com/Study_Materials/History/20210215_VIII_&_X_THE_SATAVAHANAS_PHASE.pdf

https://jogamayadevicollege.ac.in/uploads/1585995156.pdf

Q.25) With reference to the Indian economy in 2021-22, consider the following statements:

1. Service sector accounts for more than half of India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).
2. Share of India's services exports in the global services exports is more than ten percent.
3. In terms of value, the share of service exports to India's total exports is greater than the share of merchandise exports.
4. Software services is the largest contributor to India's service exports.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

a) 1,2 and 4 only

b) 1 and 3 only

c) 1 and 4 only

d) 2 and 3 only

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

India's trade and external sector had a significant impact on the GDP growth as well as expansion in per capita income. India's merchandise exports were at US$ 231.88 billion and India's imports totalled US$ 380.34 billion.

Statement 1 is correct: During the year 2021-22, Services Sector contributed over 50% to India's GDP, highlighted the Economic Survey.

Statement 2 is incorrect: India's commercial services exports share in the global services market is **around 4% in 2021.** According to World Trade Organisation estimates India's **services export market share improved** from 3% in 2010 to 3.5% in 2019 and 4% in 2020 and 2021.

Statement 3 is incorrect: In terms of value, the **share of merchandise exports (3,01,058.33 crore) to India's total exports is greate**r than the share of service exports **(1,07,030.99 crores) in the year 2021-22.**

Statement 4 is correct: In 2021-22, Software services is the largest contributor to the share of India's service exports. It is followed by the business services, communication in the same order.

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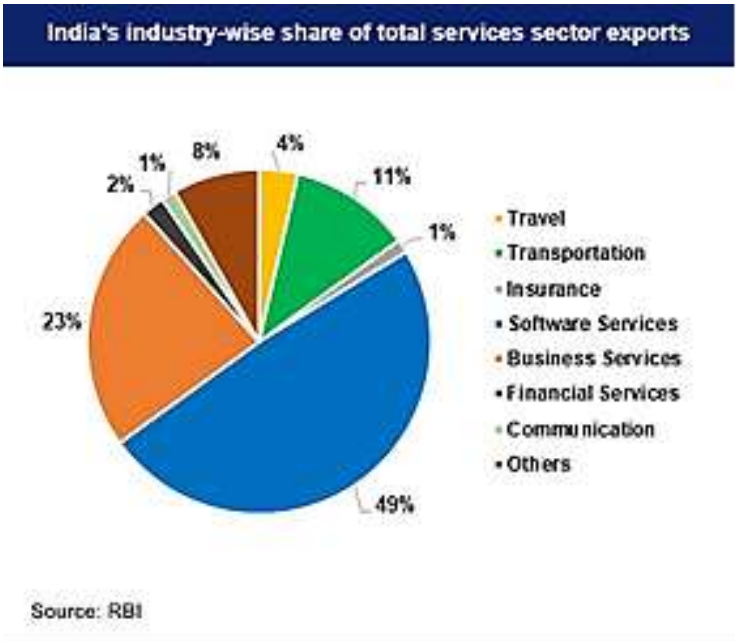

Source: https://www.ibef.org/exports/services-industry-india#:~:text=From%20April%2DSeptember%202022%20the,and%2028.3%25%20from%20March%202020.
https://www.livemint.com/economy/india-targets-350-billion-of-services-exports-this-fiscal-11657129752012.html#:~:text=India%E2%80%99s%20services%20export%20market%20share%20improved%20from%203%25%20in%202010%20to%204%25%20in%202020%20and%202021
https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1834153#:~:text=2021%2D22-,2%2C36%2C647.91,-4%2C65%2C628.51
https://www.ibef.org/industry/services#:~:text=With%20the%20fastest%20growing%20(9.2%25)%20service%20sector%20globally%2C%20the%20sector%20accounts%20for%2066%25%20share%20in%20India%27s%20GDP%20and%20generates%20about%2028%25%20of%20the%20total%20employment%20in%20India.

Q.26) With reference to Kautilya's Arthashastra, consider the following statements:
1. It provides for water cess which varies from one fifth of the produce to one third of the produce.
2. It refers to 'Samaharta' as the highest officer in charge of collection of revenue in the Mauryan empire.
3. It mentions "Sita" as land that was gifted to Brahmanas.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 1 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 2 only

Ans) a
Exp) Option a is the correct answer.
Kautilya's Arthashastra is a **theoretical treatise**, **prescribing** how a state **ought** to be ruled by the King **rather than describing** an actual state.
Statement 1 is correct: The State's role in the provision of irrigation was crucial for a strong agricultural set up. **The Arthashastra mentions a water cess** which amounted to a fifth, a fourth or a third of the produce.

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Statement 2 is correct: Arthashastra describes the **highest officer in charge** of collecting revenue as the **Samaharta**. **Samaharta, Collector of General of revenue** was also in charge of exchequer. He was a present-day Minister **of finance**. He had to supervise all the provinces, fortified towns, mines, forests, trade routes and others, which were the sources of revenue.
Statement 3 is incorrect: Arthashsatra mentions Sita as crown land which was **held by the ruler and designated as his own land (svabhumi)**. These crown lands were cultivated under the supervision of the State, by sharecroppers or tenant cultivators who paid a tax, or even by wage labor. In the Arthashastra, a Sitadhyaksa or superintendent of agriculture is mentioned who probably supervised the cultivation of sita lands.
Source: https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/64794/1/Unit16.pdf
http://www.columbia.edu/itc/mealac/pritchett/00litlinks/kautilya/book02.htm

Q.27) With reference to Gupta period, consider the following statements:
1. Feudalism as a system of administration was first introduced by the Gupta rulers.
2. The Gupta period witnessed proliferation of castes.
3. Nalanda university was established during this period.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) 2 only
b) 1 and 3 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) c
Exp) Option c is the correct answer.
After the decline of the Mauryan empire, the Gupta kingdom emerged as a great power and achieved the political unification of a large part of the Indian subcontinent.
Statement 1 is incorrect: Feudalism was practiced by the Satavahanas in the Deccan, long before the Guptas. However, it **took root during the Gupta period.** Feudalism gained currency because of Gupta's practice of granting fiscal and administrative concessions to priests and administrators.
Statement 2 is correct: The period witnessed **proliferation of castes**. With the extension of brahmanical culture in distant and different areas, **a large number of tribals** were assimilated in the brahmanical social structure of varna system fold, as were some foreigners such as the Hunas. While the foreigners and tribal heads were included as **kshatriyas**, the ordinary tribals were given the status of **shudras**. As a result, **every foreigner and tribe became a part of caste Hindu.**
Statement 3 is correct: Nalanda and Taxila were the important universities during the Gupta period. Nalanda University was established by Kumaragupta I in the 5th century and it was situated in the present-day Bihar. Other important universities during this period were **Ujjain, Vikramshila and Vallabhi.** Thus, during Gupta times, **education flourished.**
Source: Class XI TN SCERT: Chapter- The Guptas

Q.28) Which of the following can be the correct reasons for the Gupta Period being known as the Golden age of India?
1. Many great epics like Ramayana and Mahabharata were completed during this period.
2. The art of mural painting flourished during this period.
3. Increased production of Secular literature during this period.
4. The structural temples were built in Northern India for the first time during this period.

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Select the correct answer using the code given below:
a) 1, 2 and 3 only
b) 2, 3 and 4 only
c) 1 and 3 only
d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Ans) d
Exp) Option d is the correct answer.
The Gupta period in ancient India has been called the **Golden Age of India** because the period saw many achievements in the **field of arts, science, and literature.**
Statement 1 is correct: A huge body of religious and secular literature was compiled in this period. The two great epics, the Ramayana and the Mahabharata were finally completed during the Gupta times.
Statement 2 is correct: The mural paintings of this period are found at **Ajanta, Bagh, Badami** and other places. The finest piece of art of mural painting is **Ajanta cave paintings** and most of them belong to the Gupta period. They have been marked by their brilliant colours which have not faded even after 14 centuries.
Statement 3 is correct: The growth of secular literature in the Gupta period was significant. Some of the greatest poets lived during this period. For instance, **nine jewels or Navratna named as Amarasimha, Dhanvantari, Ghatakarapara, Kalidasa, Kshapanaka, Shanku, Varahamihira, Varuchi, Vetala- Bhatta** adorned the court of **Chandragupta II.** Some of the famous secular works of **Kalidasha are Meghadutam, Abhijnanashakuntalam, Raghuvamsha, Kumarasambhava and Ritusamhara.**
Statement 4 is correct: It is for the first time in the Gupta period that the temples in the form of structures were constructed in north India. These temples were made in the architectural style known as **Nagara**. **Bhitargaon in Kanpur** and the other of stone at **Deogarh in Uttar Pradesh** are two such temples.
Source:
https://nios.ac.in/media/documents/SrSec315NEW/315_History_Eng/315_History_Eng_Lesson7.pdf (pg no 111)

Q.29) Which of the following literary sources give information about the Mauryan empire in India?
1. Parishishtaparvan
2. Mudrarakshasa
3. Devichandraguptam
4. Divyadana
Select the correct answer using the code given below:
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 3 only
c) 1, 2 and 4 only
d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Ans) c
Exp) Option c is the correct answer.
Mauryan period has a greater number and more diverse type of primary sources as compared to the earlier periods. Apart from **Megasthenes' Indica and Kautilya's Arthashastra** there were some other literary sources.
Option 1 is correct: The **Parishishtaparvan** is a 12th-century Sanskrit mahakavya by **Hemachandra** which details the histories of the earliest **Jain teachers**. It largely covers the period between 480-200 BCE and **follows the growth of the kingdom of Magadha and the establishment of the Maurya Empire.**

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Option 2 is correct: The **Mudrarakshasa** is a Sanskrit play written by **Vishakhadatta** that **narrates the ascent of the king Chandragupta Maurya to power in India**. Vishakhadatta was **believed to be a contemporary of Chandragupta II,** and lived in the late 4th century to early 5th century. However, this claim was disputed by some scholars.

Option 3 is incorrect: Devichandraguptam is a Sanskrit play written by Vishakadatta. It is a play about the early life of Gupta King Chandragupta II and it depicts a story of Gupta King **Ramagupta** who decides to surrender his queen **Dhruvadevi** to a **Shaka invader** but his **younger brother Chandragupta** enters the enemy camp **disguised as queen** and kills the enemy. In the climax of the play, Chandragupta dethrones Ramagupta and marries Dhruvadevi.

Option 4 is correct: The Buddhist text **Divyavadana speaks of a revolt in Taxila during Bindusara's region**. Bindusara (reign 297 – c. 273 BCE) was a **second Mauryan ruler, father of emperor Ashoka.** According to Divyavadana the subjects of Taxila were dissatisfied with rogue administrators.

Source: https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/64794/1/Unit16.pdf

Q.30) With reference to the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in India, consider the following statements:

1. During the financial year 2021, India emerged as the largest recipient of foreign direct investment in the world.
2. The FDI inflows into India has steadily increased during the last two decades.
3. Gujarat and Tamil Nadu received more than half of the total FDI received by India in the last two decades.
4. The Government of India allowed 100% FDI in the defence sector through the government route.

Which of the statement/s given above is/are **incorrect**?

a) 2 only
b) 2, 3 and 4 only
c) 1 and 4 only
d) 1, 2 and 3 only

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

A foreign direct investment is an investment in the form of a **controlling ownership** in a business or in productive assets such as **factories in one country by an entity based in another country.** In 2022, India's cumulative FDI inflow stood at **US$ 871.01 billion.**

Statement 1 is incorrect: According to the United National Conference on Trade and Development (**UNCTAD**)'s **World Investment Report 2022**, **India was ranked seventh** among the world's major FDI recipients. **The United States ($367 billion) is the top** recipient of FDI followed by **China ($181 billion)** and Hong Kong ($141 billion).

Statement 2 is incorrect: The FDI inflows into India since 2000 were not steadily increasing instead it fluctuated. However, it was increased twenty times from 2000-01 to 2021-22 i.e., from **4,029crores in 2000 to 84,835 crores in 2022.**

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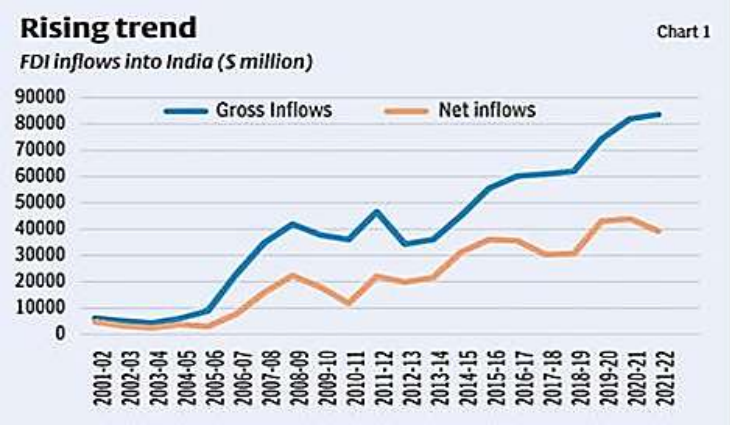

Statement 3 is incorrect: Since the year 2000, **Maharashtra (28%) and Karnataka (23%) received more than half of total FDI inflows in the country.** These states were followed by **Gujarat (18%),** Delhi (13%) and **Tamil Nādu (5%).**

Statement 4 is correct: The Government of India increased FDI in the defence sector by increasing it to 74% through the automatic route and 100% through the government route. Also, the government is coming up with a liberalised and transparent policy in many other sectors to attract FDIs in India.

Source: https://dpiit.gov.in/sites/default/files/FDI_Factsheet_September_2022_0.pdf
https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/india-7th-in-fdi-inflows-unctad/articleshow/92116978.cms
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/opinion/the-hype-surrounding-rising-fdi-inflows/article65477102.ece

Q.31) With reference to the scholars/litterateurs of ancient India, consider the following statements:
1. Panini is associated with Pushyamitra.
2. Amarasimha is associated with Harshavardhana.
3. Kalidasa is associated with Chandra Gupta-II.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2 and 3 only
c) 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) c
Exp) Option c is the correct answer.
Amarasimha and Kalidasa were one of the Navratnas in the court of Chandra Gupta-II. Panini was a revered scholar belonging to 5th – 6th Century, whereas Pushyamitra Shunga reigned in 2nd BCE.
Source) UPSC 2020

Q.32) One of the major events of Ashoka's reign was the convening of the Third Buddhist Council in Pataliputra. In this context, consider the following statements:
1. The council witnessed the first major division within Buddhism.
2. Following this council, Buddhism for the first time began to spread in South India.
3. The council decided to send missions outside India to propagate Buddhism.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) 1 and 3 only
b) 2 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) c
Exp) Option c is the correct answer.
There were **four Buddhist councils held during the ancient period.** The first one was held around 483 BC under the patronage of **King Ajatashatru** of the Haryanka Dynasty under Magadha Empire. The 2nd, 3rd and 4th Buddhist councils were held around **383 BCE, 250 BCE, and 72 CE** respectively.
Statement 1 is incorrect: The **second council** held at **Vaishali** marked the **first open division in Buddhism**, which came to be divided into 18 sub-sects. It was called to settle a dispute regarding the **relaxed** rules of **discipline followed by the monks of Vaishali.**
Statement 2 is correct: During the early phase of Buddhism, the monks and lay disciples were **forbidden to travel beyond Majjhimadesa also known as Madhyadesa region,** mainly comprising modern day Bihar. Thus, the religion was limited to Bihar and during **2nd Buddhist council it reached till the area of Ujjain.** It was **only after the third Buddhist council that Buddhism began spreading to South India, Kashmir and outside India.**
Statement 3 is correct: An important outcome of this council was the decision to expand the reach of Buddhism to other parts of the region and **to send missions outside India to convert people to the religion**. Buddhism thus became a **proselytizing religion and missionaries** were sent to other countries**. Ashoka sent his two children, Mahinda and Sanghamitta, to Sri Lanka to propagate Buddhism.** Missionaries had been sent to **Egypt and Greece** to propagate Buddhism.
Knowledge Base: **Majjhimadesa** was the **region which was traveled over by Buddha**, comprising mainly modern Bihar. All the important cities of the region such as Sravasti, Kapilvastu, Lumbini, Kusinagara, Pava, Vaishali and Rajagriha emerged as powerful centers of the sect.
Paccantima janapada region was said to be a region inhabited by **milakkhas or barbarians**. This region was the area outlying **Majjhimadesa, possibly tribal areas** such as the forested regions of the Vindhyas **Monks and lay disciplines were forbidden to travel to this area.**
Source: https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/22239/5/Unit-7.pdf

Q.33) Consider the following pairs regarding the various Inscriptions from ancient India:

Post-Mauryan inscription	**Description**
1. Hathigumpha inscription	It mentions the defeat of Harshavardhana by Pulakeshin II.
2. Girnar rock inscription	It mentions the restoration work of Sudarshan Lake undertaken by Rudradaman I.
3. Naneghat inscription	Established by queen Nayanika mentioning the earliest record of Satvahana rulers.

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2 and 3 only
c) 1 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

After the decline of Mauryan empire in 2nd century BC, small dynasties sprang up in various parts of India. Like Shungas, Kanvas and Shakas in the north and Satvahanas , Ikshvakus and Vakatakas in southern and western India. Kings and queens of these dynasties established various inscriptions.

Pair 1 is incorrect: The Hathigumpha Inscription is located in Udayagiri and khandagiri caves in Odisha, India. Dated between 2nd-century BCE and 1st-century CE, it was inscribed by the king Kharavela of Kalinga kingdom**. The Hathigumpha inscription is like the history of Kharvela as a king, a conqueror, a patron of culture and a champion of Jainism**. It consists of seventeen lines in Prakrit language in Brahmi script. **Whereas the Aihole inscription mentions the defeat of Harshavardhana by Pulkeshin II.**

Pair 2 is correct: The Girnar/Junagarh inscription mentions the repair of Sudarshan Lake carried out by Rudradaman I in the Kathiawar region. The Girnar rock inscription of Rudradaman, also known as the Junagadh Rock inscription**.** It is located near Girnar hill near Junagadh, Gujarat, India. The Junagadh rock contains inscriptions of Ashoka (one of fourteen of the Major Rock Edicts of Ashoka), Rudradaman I and Skandagupta**.**

Pair 3 is correct: Nanaghat inscription of Queen Nayanika, the widowed queen of Satakarni mentions the earliest record of satvahana rulers. It also mentions that queen performed Vedic sacrifices. The Nanaghat inscriptions along with the Nasik inscription are the principal sources for specific information on the Satavahana kingdom.

Source: https://www.livehistoryindia.com/story/monuments/girnar-rock-inscriptions
https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/20158/1/Unit-27.pdf
Indian art and culture by Nitin Singhania, chapter 1, pg 1.28

Q.34) With reference to coins issued by Indo-Greek rulers in India, consider the following statements:
1. Most of the Indo-Greek coins circulated in India were made of gold.
2. The Indo-Greek coins in India followed the Attic (Greek) weight standard.
3. Indian religious motifs were inscribed on Indo-Greek coins circulated in India.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 3 only
c) 1 and 3 only
d) 2 and 3 only

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The Indo-Greeks were the first to issue gold coins in India (which increased in number under the Kushanas). The coins of the Shakas, Parthians and the Kshatrapas followed the basic features of Indo-Greek coinage, including the bilingual and bi-script legends. Indo-Greek coins had aesthetic excellence, of precise economic value and provides useful information on emerging religious sects and cults (specially Shaiva and Bhagavata sects) that were prominent in that area. Coinage **was also adjusted to region and requirement.**

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Statement 1 is incorrect: The Indo-Greeks were the first to introduce gold coins in India but these coins were not very large in numbers. Most of the coins circulated by Indo-Greeks in India were made of silver and copper (and not gold).
Statement 2 is incorrect: Indo-Greek coins distributed in India followed an Indian weight standard (not Attic or Greek standard) and they **had bilingual inscriptions** in Greek and Kharosthi. Coins circulated by Indo-Greeks out of the Indian subcontinent (north of the Hindukush) followed the **Attic weight standard** and had **Greek legends**.
Statement 3 is correct: Coins circulated in Indian subcontinent had Royal portrait on the obverse side**, but the motifs on the reverse included religious symbols that were Indian rather than Greek in inspiration.**
Source: Poonam Dalal Dahiya chapter 7

Q.35) With reference to 'Virtual Digital Assets', consider the following statements:
1. Virtual Digital Assets means any information, code, number or token generated through cryptographic means.
2. In India, an income from the transfer of Virtual Digital Assets has been made taxable.
3.Short-term holding of less than one year of virtual digital assets has been exempted from any tax.
4. The gifting of virtual digital assets among Indian residents has been disallowed.
Which of the statements given above are correct?
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2, 3 and 4 only
c) 1, 3 and 4 only
d) 3 and 4 only

Ans) a
Exp) Option a is the correct answer.
The finance minister in her Budget 2022 speech announced a 30% tax on income from virtual digital assets (particularly aiming at Cryptocurrencies). In addition to this, it was also proposed to levy a Tax Deduction at Source (TDS) on payments made in relation to the transfer of virtual digital assets at 1% above a monetary threshold.
Statement 1 is correct: The Finance Bill, 2022 has for the first time provided a definition for crypto assets. According to the definition, **any information or code or number or token generated through cryptographic means** or otherwise providing a digital representation of value exchanged with or without consideration that can be transferred, stored, or traded electronically can be defined as "virtual digital assets".
In layman's terms, it basically means c**ryptocurrencies, DeFi (decentralized finance) and non-fungible tokens (NFTs)**. Prima facie, excludes digital gold, central bank digital currency (CBDC) or any other traditional digital assets, and hence aimed at specifically taxing cryptocurrencies.
Statement 2 is correct: A **new taxation framework for VDAs was introduced in the Finance Bill 2022** to provide for taxation and withholding of tax pertaining to VDAs. It states that Effective from 1 April 2022 onwards, **any income from transfer of VDAs is taxable** at the rate of 30% (plus surcharge and cess).
Statement 3 is incorrect: Government will be taxing the profits which are made during transactions of such private created assets or virtual digital assets at 30%. This will be done regardless of **any long-term or short-term holding** by the investor.
Statement 4 is incorrect: The gifting of **virtual digital assets is allowed in India**. The gifting of virtual digital assets has been proposed to be taxed in the hands of the recipient i.e. In the event of gifting of VDAs, the **tax payment would be made by the recipient**.
Source: https://www.pwc.in/tax-knowledge-hub/taxation-framework-of-virtual-digital-assets.html
https://blog.forumias.com/cryptocurrency-tax-budget-2022-unveils-norms-for-virtual-digital-assets/

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Q.36) With reference to Indian Society during Mauryan period, consider the following statements:
1. Women were employed as spies but they were denied any combatant role.
2. The minimum marriageable age was fixed at 16 for girls and 18 for boys.
3. Widows could not inherit their deceased husband's properties, if she was childless.
4. A female slave could not be beaten or abused by her master.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 3 and 4 only
c) 3 only
d) 1, 3 and 4 only

Ans) b
Exp) Option b is the correct answer.
The role of women in Mauryan society is of some significance. Their role in society was fixed in a way that would preserve the **tradition of patriarchy.**
Statement 1 is incorrect: Women played a combatant role in the Mauryan empire. During the Mauryan period, the **King's bodyguard** was known to consist of **Women archers** who also accompanied him on **hunts**. Additionally, women too were employed by the State as **spies**.
Statement 2 is incorrect: The marriage age for women was fixed at 12 and for boys it was 16. Kautilya's Arthshastra stated that bearing a child was one of the important duties of a married women. Thus, a daughter had to be married off as soon as she attained puberty. For girls, the age of puberty was twelve and for boys it was sixteen.
Statement 3 is correct: During Mauryan times, a **widow could not inherit her deceased husband's properties if she was childless**. If **she had a son, then they can inherit their husband's property and** if she was **childless**, such **property** would be inherited by **her in-laws to maintain her.**
Statement 4 is correct: During Mauryan times, the female slaves were subject to special legal protection. A female slave cannot be beaten or abused by her master. If the **abused woman was a nurse, a cook, a maid or an agricultural worker, she would be freed**. Also, the bonded female labourer and the slave as well as their children were **freed from bondage if they gave birth to their master's children.**
Source:
https://www.academia.edu/40768764/THE_POSITION_OF_WOMEN_IN_KAUTILYAS_ARTHASHASTRA#:~:text=If%20the%20abused,would%20be%20freed

Q.37) With reference to the trade during Mauryan period, consider the following statements:
1. All the guilds were exempted from paying taxes to the states.
2. There was a widespread use of metallic money for transactions.
3. Mauryans established sea-trade links with Burma and the Malay peninsula.
4. Indigo, ivory, pearls and perfumes were some of the items exported by Mauryans.
Which of the statements given above are correct?
a) 2 and 4 only
b) 2, 3 and 4 only
c) 1 and 3 only
d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Ans) b
Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

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The expansion of commerce and trade enabled the Mauryans to augment their resources and revenue. The security and peace provided by the stable Mauryan empire facilitated trade and commerce during this period.

Statement 1 is incorrect: The artisans during the Mauryan period were organized along **guild lines**. The **State exempted certain artisans** like armorers, shipbuilders and stone builders because they rendered **compulsory labour services to the State**. **Other artisans like spinners, weavers, miners etc. were taxed.**

Statement 2 is correct: Although the use of coinage had been prevalent since 6th century BCE, but due to **development of commerce** and **trade** during Mauryan time there was a **widespread use of metallic money for transactions in cash.**

Statement 3 is correct: The art of Overseas trade by ships was known to the Mauryan empire. **Sea-borne trade was carried on with Burma and the Malay Archipelago, and with Sri Lanka.** The ships, however, were probably quite small.

Statement 4 is correct: The establishment of friendly relations with the Greeks under the Mauryan kings like Bindusara and Ashoka improved its external trade relations. **Indigo, ivory, tortoiseshell, pearls and perfumes and rare woods** were all **exported** by Mauryans.

Source: https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/64794/1/Unit16.pdf

Class XI TN SCERT: Pg no (60,61)

Q.38) With reference to the Mauryan administration, consider the following statements:

1. The King could not override the decisions of the council of ministers in any circumstance.
2. The administrative structure was highly centralised leaving no scope for autonomy in villages.
3. The city administration was very elaborate and well planned in the Mauryan empire.
4. Each province was usually under the governance of a prince or a member of the royal family.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

a) 1 and 4 only
b) 2 and 3 only
c) 3 and 4 only
d) 1 and 3 only

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The Mauryan empire was a vast territorial entity. Various levels of administration were required to govern it well. The Arthashastra, Greek accounts and Ashokan inscriptions give us a good idea about the administrative system of the Mauryan empire.

Statement 1 is incorrect: The primary role of the Council was **advisory** in nature. **The king's decision was final in all respects.** The Arthashastra and even Ashokan edicts mention a **Mantri parishad (council of ministers).** Arthashastra mentions that the state cannot function without the assistance of the council of ministers.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The villages enjoyed a certain degree of autonomy in administering their affairs. The local people appointed as **officials in the village were called Gramikas**. Then, there was **Gopa and Sthanika** – two types of officers, acting as **intermediaries** between the district and village level administrative units. Despite the presence of such officials, the villages enjoyed a certain degree of autonomy in administering their affairs.

Statement 3 is correct: The city administration in the Mauryan empire is very elaborate. For instance, the city **council was divided into six sub-councils or committees** and each committee had five members. Thus, the city administration was elaborate and well planned.

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Statement 4 is correct: The Mauryan Empire was divided into **four provinces, each governed by the Kumara (head of the province)**, who were usually royal princes.
Source: https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/64794/1/Unit16.pdf

Q.39) With reference to the contacts between Central Asia and India during 200 BC to 300 CE, consider the following statements:
1. The trade between Central Asia and India led to the emergence of the old Silk Route.
2. The Indo-Greeks introduced the practice of military governorship in administration.
3. The use of blue glaze on pottery was introduced in India by Sakas and Kushans.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2 only
c) 1 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) a
Exp) Option a is the correct answer.
The impact of Central Asian political domination over northern and north western parts of India by rulers coming from outside led to the development of trade, technology, art forms etc.
Statement 1 is correct. The movement of foreigners into India established firmly the basis of regular trade contact between Central Asia and India. Trade contacts with Afghanistan were already existing but now Central Asia also opened up to trade with new routes. One of these routes became famous as the **old Silk Route.** Traders of different ethnic origins established trading stations and colonies from which the merchants operated. Examples of such places are Kashgar, Yarkand, Khotan, Miran, etc.
Statement 2 is correct. The Indo-Greeks also introduced the **practice of military governorship** and the governors were called **strategos/satraps. T**hey were important for maintaining the power of the rulers over the indigenous people and for blocking invasions from the north west.
Statement 3 is incorrect. The **red pottery techniques** were widely used in Central Asia, and were replicated in the Indian Subcontinent too. The typical pottery of this period was red ware, both plain and polished with medium to fine fabric. Whereas the **use of blue glaze on pottery i**s an imported technique, first developed by **Mongol artisans who combined Chinese glazing technology** with Persian decorative arts. This technique travelled east to India with early Turkic conquests in the 1**4th century.** During its infancy, it was used to make tiles to decorate mosques, tombs and palaces in Central Asia.
Source: https://www.egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/20153/1/Unit-23.pdf
POONAM DALAL (CH-7 POLITICAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS DURING c. 200 BCE–300 CE)
https://industries.rajasthan.gov.in/content/industries/handmadeinrajasthandepartment/artandcraft/bluepottery/bluepottery-jaipur.html

Q.40) With reference to 'Payments Vision 2025', consider the following statements:
1. It is a policy document released by Department of Financial Services under the Ministry of Finance.
2. The theme of the document is titled as 'E-Payments for Everyone, Everywhere, Every time (4Es)'.
3. It has proposed for enabling geotagging of digital payment infrastructure and transactions in India.
4. It provides a framework to de-regulate all the significant intermediaries in the payment's ecosystem.
Which of the statements given above are correct?
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2 and 3 only
c) 1, 3 and 4 only
d) 3 and 4 only

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Recently, **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released the "Payments Vision 2025**". It has been providing strategic direction and implementation plan for structured development of the payment and settlement systems in India.

Statement 1 is incorrect: The policy document of 'Payments Vision 2025' is **released by Reserve Bank of India (Not by Department of Financial Services).** The activities to be taken up by the RBI till 2025 have been captured across five anchor goal posts: 1) Integrity, 2) Inclusion, 3) Innovation, 4) Institutionalization and 5) Internationalization.

Statement 2 is correct: The theme of Payment Vision 2025 is E**-Payments for Everyone, Everywhere, Every time (4 Es).** It aims to provide every user with Safe, Secure, Fast, Convenient, Accessible, and Affordable e-payment options (6 Attributes).

Statement 3 is correct: The RBI document has proposed enabling **geotagging of digital payment infrastructure and transactions** and revisiting guidelines for prepaid payment instruments (PPIs), including closed system PPIs.

Statement 4 is incorrect: RBI also proposed a framework for **regulation (not de-regulation) of all significant intermediaries in the payment's ecosystem** and link credit cards and credit components of banking products to UPI. At present, RBI has issued instructions for regulating the activities of online Payment Aggregators, while providing baseline technology-related recommendations to Payment Gateways (PGs). The need to bring all significant payment intermediaries, including offline PAs, under **direct regulation of RBI** should be considered according to Vision document.

Source: https://www.mondaq.com/india/financial-services/1271192/rbis-payment-vision-2025-key-initiatives-and-goals#:~:text=The%20core%20theme%20of%20the,%2C%20Innovation%2C%20Institutionalisation%20and%20Internationalisation.

https://blog.forumias.com/payments-vision-2025-rbi-aims-to-regulate-bigtech-fintechs-bnpl-services/#:~:text=Expected%20Outcomes%20of%20the%20Vision,5)%20Reduction%20in%20Cash%20in

Q.41) With reference to the history of India, the terms 'kulyavapa' and 'dronavapa' denote

a) measurement of land

b) coins of different monetary value

c) classification of urban land

d) religious rituals

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Option a is correct: These are different terms for measuring land during the Gupta period. The Kulyavapa, Dronavapa, Adhavapa are the terms related to land measurements mainly mentioned in the copper plate inscriptions of Gupta era that were found in Bengal. Kulyavapa land must have been equal to around 160 bighas of land. A Dronavapa must be 16-20 bighas and Adhvapa which appears to be the smallest must be around 4-5 bighas of land.

Source) UPSC 2020

Q.42) With reference to the period of Mauryan dynasty in ancient India, the towns Tamralipti, Bharuch and Sopara were well known as:

a) Provinces during Mauryan empire

b) Ports handling foreign trade

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c) Important Buddhist pilgrimage centres
d) Important sites of Ashokan pillar inscriptions

Ans) b

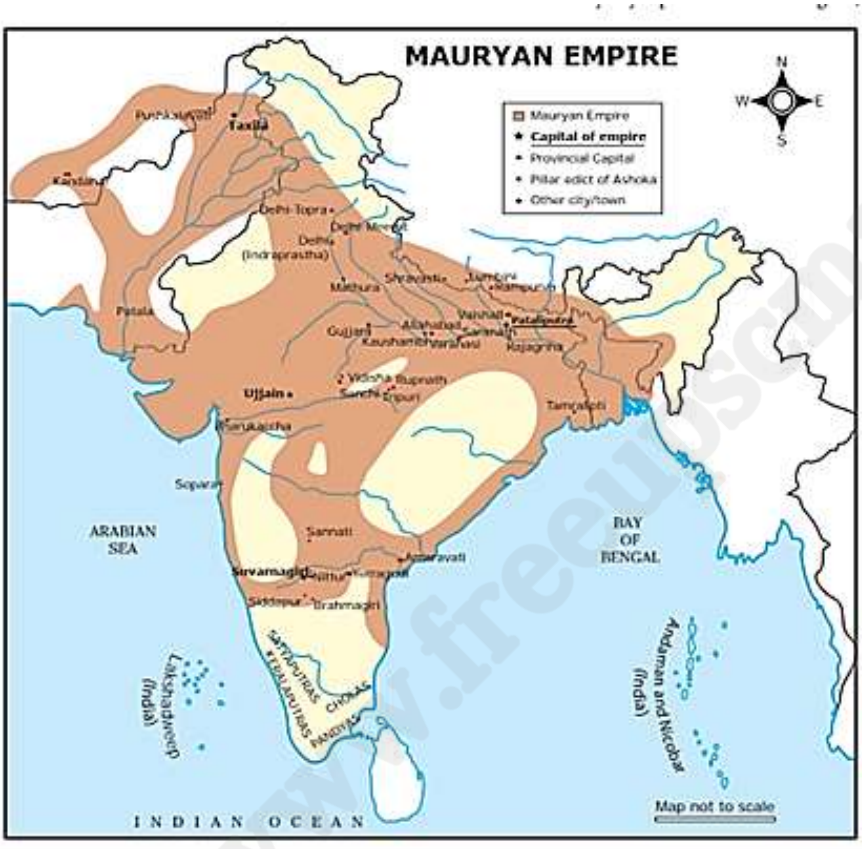
Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Option a is incorrect: The Mauryan empire was divided into four provinces based at **Suvarnagiri (near Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh), Ujjain (Avanti, Malwa), Taxila in the northwest, and Tosali in Odisha** in the south-east.

Option b is correct: During the Mauryan period, **maritime trade** was carried on mainly along the coast. The ports along the west coast were probably those of **Bharuch at the mouth of the river Narmada** and **Sopara near present day Bombay**. In the east, **Tamralipti or present day Tamluk** provided an important outlet for ships sailing to Burma.

Option c is incorrect: During Maurya and post-Mauryan period, **Buddhism gained popularity** and emerged as a stronghold of the sect. Some of the important Buddhist pilgrimage centers **are Sanchi, Sarnath and Bharhut**.

Option d is incorrect: Some of the important sites of Ashokan inscriptions are those of Delhi Mirat, Allahabad, Lauriya-Nandangarh, Rampurva (with lion capital), Delhi-Topara, **Sankisya, Sanchi and Sarnath.** While major rock edicts can be found at Sopara however, **Tamralipti and Bharuch are not considered as important sites of Ashokan inscriptions.**



Source:
https://www.google.com/search?q=Ports+of+Mauryan+empire&oq=Ports+of+Mauryan+empire&aqs=chrome..69i57j69i59l4j69i60l3.7138j0j4&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#:~:text=During%20the%20Mauryan,sailing%20to%20Burma.
Class XI TN SCERT: Chapter - Emergence of State and Empire

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Q.43) With reference to the Mauryan dynasty in India, consider the following pairs:

Officers	Functions
1. Rajukas	Supervising the palace workers
2. Mahamatas	Judicial officers
3. Chikitsakah	Revenue collection
4. Yuktas	Medical officer

How many of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?
a) Only one pair
b) Only two pairs
c) Only three pairs
d) All the four pairs

Ans) a
Exp) Option a is the correct answer.
Option 1 is incorrect: Rajukas were judicial officers. They are appointed in both urban and rural areas, whose judicial functions are often combined with assessment of revenue.
Option 2 is correct: Ashoka established a post named Mahamatas who was judicial officer. Mahamatas were provided with judicial responsibilities within the city according to Ashoka's inscriptions. The edicts urge the **mahamatas to be impartial** and ensure that people are not imprisoned or punished without sufficient evidence.
Option 3 is incorrect: Arthashastra references to **medicine men** of various kinds and **ordinary physicians (Chikitsakah), midwives (garbhavyadhi) etc**.
Option 4 is incorrect: The Yukta was a junior officer entrusted with the task of survey and assessment of land and **revenue collection.** They were subordinates of **Rajuka and Pradhesika, officials at the district level.**
Source: https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/64794/1/Unit16.pdf

Q.44) "This inscription is composed by Harisena in Sanskrit and it talks about the military achievements of a particular king. It also mentions that the neighbouring states of this particular king agreed to pay tributes and taxes to him. Additionally, it mentions that this king received tributes even from many kings of southeast Asia."
Identify the inscription and the King from the options given below:
a) Allahabad pillar inscription and Chandragupta II
b) Mehrauli Iron Pillar inscription and Chandragupta II
c) Allahabad pillar inscription and Samudragupta
d) Mehrauli Iron Pillar inscription and Samudragupta

Ans) c
Exp) Option c is the correct answer.
Allahabad pillar Inscription is written by Harisena in Sanskrit. It mentions about the personality and military achievements of Samudragupta in 33 lines. According to the Allahabad inscription, **neighbouring** five frontier **kingdoms** of Samudragupta had agreed to **pay tribute and taxes to Samudragupta** and obey his orders without any fight. The inscription adds that Samudragupta also **received tributes from many kings of south - east Asia.**
The Mehrauli iron pillar inscription in Delhi mentions the King Chandra who has been identified by scholars as **Chandragupta II.** According to this inscription **Chandra** crossed the Sindhu region of seven

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rivers and **defeated Valhikas (identified with Bactria**) and it also mentions **Chandragupta II's victory over enemies from Vanga (Bengal).**
Source: https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/20162/1/Unit-32.pdf

Q.45) Consider the following statements regarding the City Gas Distribution (CGD) Network:
1. It is intended to supply both Piped Natural Gas (PNG) and Compressed Natural Gas (CNG).
2. CGD is under the regulatory authority of Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board.
3. The Ministry of Labour and Employment has granted 'Public Utility status' to CGD network.
4. It is designed to meet the supply needs of both domestic and industrial customers.
Which of the statements given above are correct?
a) 1, 2, and 3 only
b) 2, 3 and 4 only
c) 1 and 4 only
d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Ans) d
Exp) Option d is the correct answer.
Statements 1 and 4 are correct: City Gas Distribution (CGD) networks are an interconnected system of underground Natural Gas pipelines **for supplying Piped Natural Gas (PNG) and Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) to domestic-commercial and industrial customers.**
Statement 2 is correct. The Government has established **Petroleum & Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) under the PNGRB Act, 2006 which is the statutory authority** to grant authorization for the development of City Gas Distribution (CGD) network. **CGD is under the regulatory authority of Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board.**
Statement 3 is correct: Public Utility Status is granted to CGD Projects by Ministry of Labour and Employment.
Source: https://loksabha.nic.in/Members/QResult16.aspx?qref=62919
https://pib.gov.in/PressReleseDetail.aspx?PRID=1739017

Q.46) Which of the following is the correct chronological order of kings belonging to the Gupta dynasty in ancient India?
1. Skandagupta
2. Chandragupta I
3. Srigupta
4. Vishnugupta
Select the correct answer using the code given below:
a) 1-4-3-2
b) 2-3-1-4
c) 3-1-2-4
d) 3-2-1-4

Ans) d
Exp) Option d is the correct answer.
After the decline of the Kushanas, north India witnessed the rise of the Gupta dynasty. The rulers of this dynasty were able to establish a vast empire that included almost the entire north India.
Option 3: Srigupta (240–280 CE) **was** the the **first ruler of the Gupta Empire** who was succeeded by his son Ghatotkacha (280–319 CE). Both Sri Gupta and Ghatotkacha are mentioned as Maharajas in inscriptions.

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Option 2: Ghatotkacha was succeeded by his son **Chandragupta I (319 to 335 CE)** and he is considered to be the **first great king of the Gupta Empire**. Chandragupta, I held the title of maharajadhiraja (great king over other kings).

Option 1: Skandagupta was considered as the last great king of the Gupta dynasty. He successfully **defended an attack by the Huns**, but the recurrence of Huns' invasion **strained his empire's coffers**. The Gupta Empire declined after the death of Skanda Gupta in 467 CE.

Option 4: Vishnugupta was the **last recognised king of the Gupta line** who reigned from **540 to 550 CE.**

Source: Class XI; TN SCERT Chapter - The Guptas

Q.47) With reference to the coins during Gupta and Mauryan dynasty in ancient India, consider the following statements:

1. The Guptas issued a larger number of gold coins in comparison to the Mauryans.
2. Unlike Mauryan coins, the coins of Gupta period bore the image of its King.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Coins played an important role in the history of economic development of the country and it is also an indicator of the empire's economic strength.

Statement 1 is correct: The Guptas issued many gold coins called **dinaras** but comparatively few silver and copper coins. **Mauryans** on the other hand issued a **large number of silver coins** and fewer gold coins.

Statement 2 is correct: The Gupta coins carry the depictions of the activities of the rulers. Gold coins issued by **Samudragupta show him playing the veena.** But in **Mauryan coins kings' image was absent**, for instance its punch marked coins carried a symbol of peacock, hill and the crescent.

Samudragupta playing the *vina*

Source: https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/20152/1/Unit-24.pdf (pg no 21)
https://nios.ac.in/media/documents/SrSec315NEW/315_History_Eng/315_History_Eng_Lesson7.pdf (pg no 111)
https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/64794/1/Unit16.pdf (pg no 277)
Class XI: OLd NCERT - Ancient India- Cental Asian Contacts and their results (The Kushans)
Class XI TN SCERT: Chapter - The Guptas

Q.48) In the context of Gupta period in India, consider the following statements:

1. The Gupta empire, under Samudragupta, exercised direct control over the regions up to Tamil Nādu in South India.

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2. Vakataka King Rudrasena II was the contemporary of Gupta ruler Chandragupta II.
3. The Hun invasion weakened the Gupta empire in the country.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 3 only

Ans) c
Exp) Option c is the correct answer.
Statement 1 is incorrect: The Gupta empire under Samudragupta did not extend beyond central India. Although **Samudragupta successfully campaigned in the South Indian states** (up to the region of Kanchi near Chennai) he **did not annex this kingdom**. Rather he made them recognize his **suzerainty** and pay him tributes and presents because he thought that it was difficult to keep them under control and subservience once he returned to his capital in the north.
Statement 2 is correct: Rudrasena II, the important ruler of **Vakataka dynasty** was a **contemporary of Chandragupta II, the Gupta ruler.** Rudrasena II was married to **Prabhavati Gupta**, the daughter of Chandragupta II.
Statement 3 is correct: During Skandagupta's reign, the Huns invaded northwest India but were restricted. But in the sixth century, they occupied Malwa, Gujarat, Punjab and Gandhara. The **Hun invasion weakened the Gupta hold in the country.**

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Source:
https://nios.ac.in/media/documents/SrSec315NEW/315_History_Eng/315_History_Eng_Lesson7.pdf

Q.49) In ancient India, the Mauryan empire and the Gupta empire brought a greater political unification in the country and their impact on society, literacy and religion too was significant. In this context, consider the following statements:
1. While Buddhism was prominent under the Mauryans, Hinduism gained importance under the Guptas.
2. The system of slavery during Gupta times is more elaborate than the Mauryan times.
3. Sanskrit was popularised more during Gupta times than the Mauryan times.
Which of the statements given above are correct?
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2 and 3 only
c) 1 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) d

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Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct: The sect of **Buddhism** flourished under the patronage of the great Mauryan ruler **Ashoka** and even afterwards. But after the establishment of **Gupta empire** and their inclination towards **Vaishnavism during early phase and Shaivism during the later phase** brought **Hinduism to the forefront** which led to **loss of royal patronage to Buddhism** and as a result it **declined during Gupta times** compared to its status during Mauryan times.

Statement 2 is correct: The system of slavery is more elaborate during Gupta period. Narada Smritis, the law book of Gupta times mentions fifteen types of slaves. They were mainly domestic servants employed in cleaning and sweeping. The prisoners of war, debt bondsmen, born of a slave woman were all considered slaves. According to Kautilya's **Arthashastra (**the Mauryan time text) there are **nine types of slavery**.

Statement 3 is correct: Sanskrit as a language witnessed **great growth during the Gupta period.** The Gupta rulers announced **Sanskrit as their official language** and they patronised the **Sanskrit poets.** But **Mauryan rulers used Prakrit languages (common man's language)** to communicate with masses, an example being the number of Ashokan inscriptions in Prakrit language.

Source:
https://nios.ac.in/media/documents/SrSec315NEW/315_History_Eng/315_History_Eng_Lesson7.pdf

Q.50) Consider the following statements regarding the Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB):
1. The Bureau will select and appoint the chiefs of Public Sector Banks and Public Insurance Companies.
2. The Bureau has replaced the Bank Board Bureau.
3. FSIB is always headed by a Deputy Governor of Reserve Bank of India.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) 2 only
b) 1 and 3 only
c) 1 and 2 only
d) 2 and 3 only

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) does not appoint but instead recommends the names of chiefs of Public Sector Bank (PSB) and Insurance Companies to the Government. It will make recommendations for the appointment of Whole Time Director (WTD) and Non-Executive Chairman (NEC) in Public Sector Bank, Insurance Companies, and Financial Institutions.

Statement 2 is correct: Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) was proposed by the Department of Financial service, Ministry of Finance. **Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) replaced the Banks Board Bureau (BBB).**

Statement 3 is incorrect: FSIB would be headed by a chairman, a central government nominee. The board would comprise the Secretaries of the DFS, the chairman of IRDAI, and a deputy governor of the RBI. Additionally, it will have three part-time members who are experts in banking and three more from the insurance sector.

Knowledge Base:

The functions of FSIB are as follows: It advises the Government on the desired management structure at the Board level for PSBs, FIs and PSIs**.** FSIB advises the government on a suitable performance appraisal system for whole-time directors and non-executive chairman of the state-run financial services institutions. **FSIB will advise Government on matters relating to transfer and termination of the chiefs of PSB and Insurance companies.** It will build a data bank relating to the performance of public-sector

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banks (PSBs), FIs and insurance companies. It will advise the government on "formulation and enforcement of a code of conduct and ethics for whole-time directors" in these institutions. The FSIB will even help these state-run banks, FIs and insurers in developing business strategies and capital raising plans, etc.
Source: https://fsib.org.in/bureau-profile/
https://www.financialexpress.com/industry/banking-finance/financial-services-institutions-bureau-fsib-to-be-much-more-than-just-a-headhunter/2580657/
https://www.financialexpress.com/industry/banking-finance/financial-services-institution-bureau-new-entity-with-wider-mandate-to-replace-bbb/2580029/
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/blexplainer/from-banks-board-bureauto-financial-services-institutions-bureau-all-that-you-need-to-know/article65653269.ece

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